



# NENA NEWS

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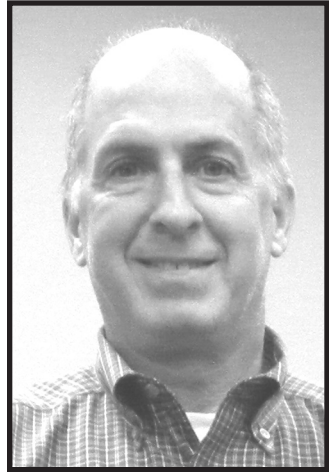
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# President's Comments

by **William Harkins**



I would like to start by thanking you our members for your support through your membership and donations. We would also like to thank those who contribute to this newsletter with your news articles and advertisements it is greatly appreciated.

Plans are now being finalized for our 76th, Convention. This year's Convention will be held on October 3rd, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo, October 2-3, 2020 at the Manchester Downtown Hotel/Double Tree by Hilton, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, N.H. Please note due to the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions our only presence will be the Club Table where we look forward to seeing our members and visitors. This year's elections will be done remotely with many of our board members agreeing to stay on for another year.

We are now accepting nominations for all positions if you wish to be put on the ballot or nominate someone please contact William Harkins at P.O. Box 2021 Woburn, MA 01888 or by email at

williamharkins@comcast.net. We now meet via conference call to save on travel expenses and time and only meet about eight times a year for an hour or so on Saturday mornings.

Elections: In 2020, terms expire for the President, Vice President; All Directors at Large; State Director for Maine; State Director for Massachusetts; State Director for Vermont with Rhode Island currently vacant. The chart below shows the status

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Vermont	James Simson	James Simson
Rhode Island	Vacant	Open

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Sincerely

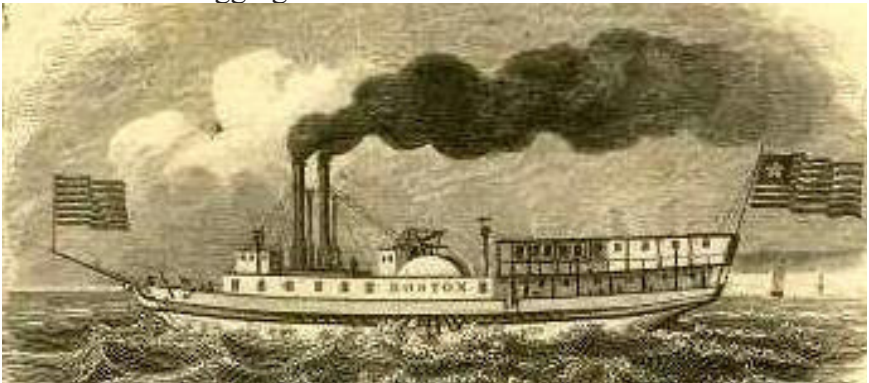
*William Harkins*

# Steamboat Boston

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By: Walt Wiegand

**W**hile she occasionally made it to her namesake city, the Boston was constructed in 1831 at New York for the Rhode Island & New York Steam Boat Co. Her route was from NY City via Long Island Sound to Providence where connection was made to Boston by stage or rail. She saw service on that route until sold in 1837. The rest of her career was under various owners at East coast ports to the south. Erik Heyl in his *Early American Steamers*, Vol III (1964) details her history into the 1850s. He indicates that Boston was the first steamboat on the Sound without masts, sails and other rigging.



During the period of Boston's service in New England waters, the Commercial Bank was incorporated at Providence, RI. It successfully navigated the "obsolete banknote" era from 1833 to its re-charter as the Commercial National Bank in 1865. Among

the earliest issues of the Commercial Bank was a \$5 note on the face of which is the steamer Boston, her name proudly displayed on the paddle box. It was engraved by Rawdon, Wright Hatch & Co.; the vignette probably was a custom one created for the bank. The banknote likely dates from the 1833 to 1837 period, that is between the bank's founding and the sale of the steamboat to the South. All genuine early notes on Providence's Commercial Bank are scarce. Most survivors are proofs as is this-



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# The Battle of Bunker Hill (Like You Have Never Seen it Before)

By: C. John Ferreri



*This scene that I have encountered only as the vignette on this particular banknote of the Charlestown Bank (scene of the British attack on Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775) shows the battle unfolding from the British point of view, literally! This panoramic view of the whole battle at approximately half way through the altercation is pretty much historically correct.*

(Image by courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.)



*Death of General Warren by John Trumbull*



*Battle of Bunker Hill by Howard Pyle*

I am assuming that you, the reader have not before, seen this depiction of the “Battle” or even something close to it. There are a multitude of scenes, depicted by both notable and obscure artists depicting the battle with lines of British (Redcoats) marching up that hill in Charlestown (today, a very short water taxi ride from downtown Boston), trying to dislodge the band of Patriots from the security of the hastily thrown-up trenches and revetments or, of the storming of the redoubt atop the hastily dug trenches.



The image shown here is quite different and at first glance, probably not even recognizable.

This engraving resides on an 1834 bank note of the Charlestown Bank, from the town where the battle took place. It was drawn and engraved by the New England Banknote Company, a new company that followed the Jacob Perkins (stereotype steel plate) company when reorganized in Boston and expanded with new artists and owners in about 1832-33. Procuring banknotes was an expensive undertaking for the bank especially if the subject of the main vignette was not made up of “stock” engravings that could be used also on other bank’s issues of notes. This particular vignette does not appear on any other bank’s paper money. I believe this engraving was made expressly for this bank. As I have mentioned in previous articles printed in the “News”, banks were able to issue their own examples of paper money before 1862, the advent of Federal issues and often would show an engraving of a local or historical event. It would be natural for this bank from Charlestown to show an engraving of this battle. It might not be evident to the casual observer but the troops and officers seen here are not patriot soldiers or “Minutemen”. These are the British! They are on the battle field where no Patriots on that day would have stood! I have not found a single person who has seen this engraving of the “Battle”, before! And, why would the bank want to show a scene of battle from the British point of view? The answer, at least to this author, is lost to antiquity. The image of this note is the same that appears in the Whitman Encyclopedia of Obsolete Paper Money Volume 3, page #252.



## *Bunker Hill Continued*

*(enlarged vignette on previous page) This very intricate and pretty much historically correct, engraved scene of the battle was executed from a very different part of the battlefield than other commonly encountered scenes. In the distance and partially obscured by the hill to the right is the city of Boston. The waterfront in the distance along today's Atlantic Avenue plainly shows waterfront shacks and small ships and even a larger ship keeled over in order to have work done on its hull. Closer to the near shore are seen, longboats with British troops ready to disembark and join the fight. This second wave of reinforcements landed approximately where today's berth for Old Ironsides resides. Just behind them are larger war ships, perhaps the Lively and the Falcon firing their canons in support of the troops advancing up Bunker Hill (a historical misnomer attributing this name actually to Breed's Hill, some hundreds of feet in front of the actual Bunker Hill.)*

*Flames caused by the burning of Charlestown (caused by incendiary shot fired from Copp's Hill in the North End of Boston and the ships supporting the ground troops) may be seen just over the top of Bunker Hill and British soldiers in lines of advance are seen making their way up the "Hill". Also at the top of the "Hill" may be seen the dug fortifications and the redoubt of the Patriots that so irked the British on that day.*

*The British soldiers in formation in the lower right are marching north to confront General Israel Putnam's (CT) force along with those of John Stark (VT), James Reed (NH) and Thomas Knowlton (CT) at a fortified fence row only 500-600 yards distant extending from today's Medford Street to the Mystic River shore.*

*And, on the left are lines of men pulling two canons to use against that fence row. The canon and men are advancing from the area of the brick kilns (one is visible) and Moulton's Hill (some call it Morton's Hill) in the vicinity of the initial landing area of Redcoats at Charlestown Point*

*Observing this activity are four or five British officers, one shown on horseback (notice the British bicorn hats). We can only assume that two of them are General William Howe and General Robert Pigot, the two senior commanders of General Gage's occupation army. Both were present and on the field of battle, leading their men that day*

The Boston banks have become a fertile source for banknotes with interesting and historical vignettes. History can be learned and enjoyed when a collector zeros in on bank note offerings from this town. But, he must be observant, not to let any get away as some of their vignettes may not look familiar at first glance. Such, could be the case here. We are not used to seeing a painting or engraving of the "Battle of Bunker Hill" in this context and the portrayed vignette could easily be overlooked. Banknote engravings with such historical context and intricate subject matter are not commonly found. 🖋

# Connecting the Dots

## An Accidental Lesson From Obsolete Banknotes

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By: Steve Noyes

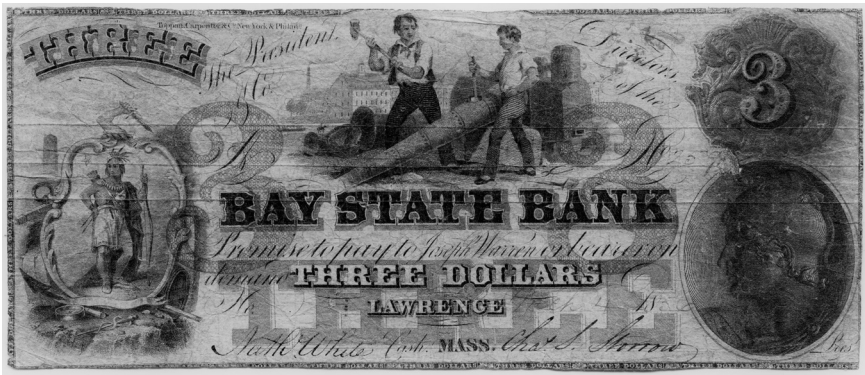


**R**ecently I found an obsolete banknote from The Bunker Hill Bank of Charlestown, Massachusetts, dated March 4, 1842. Under normal conditions, I probably wouldn't bid on a note from Charlestown, but the engraving of the Bunker Hill Monument in the center drew me to the note. On the right hand side of the note is an engraving of Gilbert Stuart's famous Washington at Dorchester Heights painting, on the left hand side of the note is a female leaning on an urn bearing the name Warren. I wondered what the significance of the name, Warren was: could he have been the founder of the bank, or perhaps an early mayor of Charlestown? Something to research later when I have time, I told myself, after which I barely gave it another thought.

*Continued on next page*  
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## Connecting the Dots Continued

Fast forward two weeks or so, and I acquired another Massachusetts note from an area that I do collect, a \$3 note from the Bay State Bank of Lawrence, dated March 4, 1856. On the left hand side of this note, there is an engraving of an Indian on a shield, representing the State Seal of Massachusetts. In the background, barely visible, is what appears to be the top of the Bunker Hill Monument. While scanning the note, I noticed something else that I missed when I bought it. Rather than the usual generic “promise to pay the bearer on demand” line after the bank title, the Bay State Bank chose to take the name of a prominent historical figure to have engraved in place of “the bearer”, which was a somewhat common practice at the time. In most cases, I wouldn’t find this unusual, but the name used on the Lawrence note was Joseph Warren. The wheels start turning: two Massachusetts notes, two images of the Bunker Hill Monument, and two mentions of a Warren.



I quickly found a Joseph Warren who was a major player in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Born in 1741, Dr. Joseph Warren was a prominent figure in Colonial Massachusetts. He participated in the battles of Lexington and Concord in April 1775, and was the person who dispatched William Dawes and Paul Revere on their famous midnight rides. He became the second President of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, replacing John Hancock in that

*Continued on page 14*

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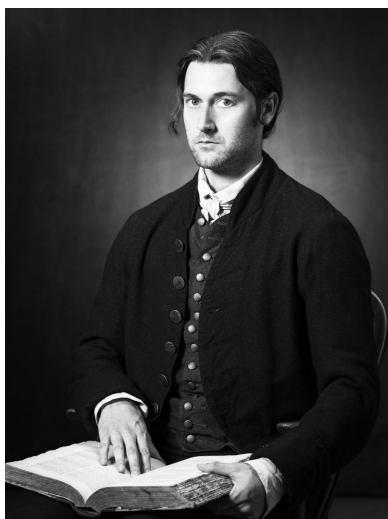
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*Connecting the Dots Continued*

position in May of 1775. Warren was commissioned as a Major General on June 14, 1775. Three days later, on June 17, 1775, the Battle of Bunker Hill took place on nearby Breed's Hill. Warren refused a command position in the battle, stating he would rather fight as a private alongside the troops. It was in this battle that Joseph Warren gave his life, being struck in the head by enemy fire and killed instantly, making him the first martyr of the war.



*Joseph Warren young*



*Joseph Warren older*

Joseph Warren is buried at the Forest Hills Cemetery in Boston. Where his grave is also marked with a statue in his honor. 🗿

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# Looking Back on Modern Commemoratives - Is There Some Affordable Gold?

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By: Mark Benvenuto

**I**t may seem odd to think that we can look “back” on coins that are still considered quite modern, but the United States Mint has been pounding out commemoratives in what is now called its modern commemorative series since 1982. That first issue, a half dollar featuring none other than General Washington on horse-back, would become a minor blip in a huge program. Eventually, after almost forty years of coins honoring all sorts of different themes, there would be quite a few gold \$5 half eagles in the mix. Since it’s probably a fair bet that many of them have been taken out of their original presentation cases and slabbed by one of the reputable third party grading services, it might be fun to see if there is some kind of collection to be made, an assembly of modern half eagles, as it were.

Collectors who have been in the game for a while may remember the hype and buzz when the three-coin set was issued in 1986, honoring the centennial of the Statue of Liberty. There had already been some gold commemoratives, for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984 – big, rather expensive \$10 eagles. But this set contained a gold half eagle that had a design which could had to be called bold, original, and novel. The design was the artistry of Elizabeth Jones, the Chief Engraver of the Mint, and it received rave reviews. For our look at it right now though, there are only two items we wish to review: the mintage total and the price. Curiously, there were 404,013 of these produced as proofs, and 95,248 as uncirculated coins. That’s because the Mint allowed people to order directly, and most folks wanted that proof. The prices today are in the range of \$350, for either version, unless you are looking for something like a PF-69 with deep cameo finish. That grade and designator will cost more.



Okay, the reason we wanted these specific numbers in place is to figure just how common any of the half eagles are, and what might be a decent price. The mintage totals just given for the Statue of Liberty half eagle went on to be one of the highest in the growing series. For whatever reason, every subsequent commem had a lower issue but one (the Constitution set in 1987), whether the theme was a great one, or the design was, or anything else. The mintages didn't get this high again.

The reason the second number becomes important is that the \$350 price tag serves as something of a baseline. We can now ask ourselves how low a mintage goes before the price starts to rise.

With these two numbers in hand, it doesn't take a crystal ball to realize that there are plenty of the earlier \$5 gold pieces which now carry the same price as that for the Statue of Liberty piece.



Rather, any good price guide will tell us that. For example, the 1988 \$5 gold piece honoring the Seoul Olympics – another piece of Elizabeth Jones' amazing artwork – saw 281K in proof, and only 62.9K in uncirculated issues. But prices today are the same as for the Statue of Liberty half eagle. For a more dramatic twist, the \$5 gold piece that was part of the set honoring the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing saw only 79,730 proofs and 24,329 uncs minted. By any stretch, this is a much less common coin than the Statue of Liberty piece. But the price for either version? Yes, it's still the same.

Now, to be fair, there are some half eagles in this series for which the price does reflect the general rarity or scarcity. The four different half eagles from the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, for an example or four, do have pretty low mintages and higher prices. But they are more of the oddball in terms of a trend than any of the others.

Perhaps the most extreme example of a good price in this assemblage of modern gold pieces are the two versions of the half eagle issued to honor Boys Town, just a couple of years ago. The theme was the centennial of Boys Town, originally an orphanage, the brain child of Fr. Edward Flanagan. The proof mintage was a

*Continued on page 28*

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# York County Maine, Tercentennial 1936

By: Peter Jones

**T**he Committee for Commemoration of the Founding of York County, Maine, asked Portland, Maine artist, Walter Rick, to design a coin presumably to support local celebrations. However, there is little internet evidence that York County held celebrations in 1936 for this more than obscure event.

## The coin.

The obverse shows a stockaded Brown's Garrison on the Saco River, with the sun behind, and a horse with rider and three men in the foreground (the middle man grows out of the rider's hat)! The legend reads LIBERTY above in the sun's rays, and E PLURIBUS UNUM below. In a large ugly peripheral ring is the huge legend UNITED•STATES•OF•AMERICA, and \*HALF DOLAR\* below.



The reverse shows the seal of York County, Maine i.e. a cross within a shield and a pine tree in the first quarter. The inscription reads 1636 in the left field and 1936 in the right field. The legend reads: IN•GOD WE•TRUST. Again in a large ugly peripheral ring is the legend \*YORK•COUNTY\* above, and FIRST•COUNTY•IN•MAINE below.

*Continued on next page*

### **Introduction of the somewhat obscure coin.**

“The Committee for Commemoration of the Founding of York County, Maine” is a rather long name. If you want to call yourself something don’t use an eleven-word name! It was also called by two other names: “The York County Commemorative Coin Commission”, and “The York County Tercentenary Commemorative Coin Commission”.

The Commission asked Walter Rich, a prominent wild-life watercolorist from Portland, Maine, to do the sketches. They told him to copy a woodcut sketch from a book called “*The Proprietors of Saco and a Brief Sketch of the Years Following the First Settlement of the Town, also a Little About an Old Bank in Saco, Maine*” by Frank C. Deering published in 1931. Again, in the 1930’s a 28-word book title did not seem to bother anyone! The book was written for the York National Bank, which stood on the site of the previous Brown’s Garrison stockade.

US Congress authorized 30,000 pieces on June 26<sup>th</sup> (the same day the Oakland Bay bridge coin was authorized). Rich was not a sculptor. Once he completed the sketch things moved like lightning. On July 17<sup>th</sup> the Committee of Fine Arts, (CFA) meeting in New York City, approved the design (except that they wanted the 1636 above the original shield on the reverse, omitted).

In just 29 days the sketches went to the G.S. Pacetti Company in Boston who made large bronze carvings (as Rich was not a sculptor). These were then sent to the Medallie Art Company in New York City to produce the die from a reducing lathe. The die was then sent to the Philadelphia Mint who struck the coins. And by August 15<sup>th</sup> they were on sale in Maine!

Walter P. Nichols was a Boston businessman and spent his summers in York County Maine. He was the secretary and treasurer of the Tercentenary Commission, and of the York National Bank. He was also a numismatist, who had a sense of fair play. He planned the distribution of the coin meticulously.

*Continued on next page*

**York County Seal, note top 1636 label was removed because CFA saw 1636 and 1936 already in left and right fields of reverse design.**



**Stockade and Block Houses on site of York National Bank.**

Although Congress authorized 30,000 coins Nichols only asked for 25,000 coins. So they minted 25,015 coins (15 for assay). Nichols reserved 10,000 for Maine residents which sold at \$1.50, and 15,000 were sold to other states at \$1.65. Ultimately 6,000 coins remained unsold at the end of 1936, so they were sold sporadically into the 1950s.

Nichols sent no coins for re-melting. This was a radical departure from previous abusive programs that asked the Mint to produce large numbers which never sold then large numbers of coins were sent back to the mint for re-melting. This was largely Nichols doing and certainly a tribute to his management.



It was believed by some that Congress, tiring of this unscrupulous scheming by organizations, might just approve no further commemoratives and that this might be the very last commemorative coin.

Cornelius Vermeule (see references) was unusually scathing about the coin and commented “few have deserved ashes and odium more than this half-dollar”. It “easily wins a grand prize for unimagination (sic). The awkward lettering around the outer parts of the field on both sides dwarfs what passes for a design”. “The total performance is pedestrian to an extreme”. It seems Vermeule used Roger’s Thesaurus for as many critical synonyms as he could find to string together!

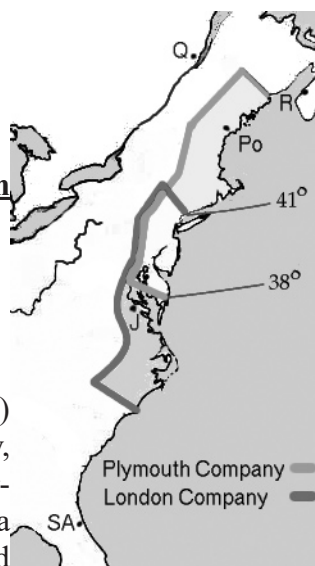
## **The History behind York County.**

**The overlapping land grants of Plymouth Company (north) and London Company (south). The Plymouth Company started near present day Washington DC, extending to present day Nova Scotia. Po means Popham Colony.**

King James I of England (1603-1625) granted a patent to the Virginia Company, comprising two stock companies, the Virginia Company of London and the Virginia Company of Plymouth. The London and Plymouth grants overlapped. The London Company was the 34<sup>th</sup> to 41<sup>st</sup> parallel (approximately present-day Cape Fear to present-day Manhattan). The Plymouth Company of New England was the 38<sup>th</sup> to the 43<sup>rd</sup> parallel (approximately present-day Washington DC to present-day Nova Scotia).

It was the London Company that established the Jamestown settlement of 1607, and it was the Plymouth Company that established Popham colony in Maine.

Sir Ferdinando Gorge sent 120 colonists out in 1607 to Phipps-



*Continued on page 26*



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burg on the Kennebec River mouth (see map below). This was called the Popham colony.

Half the colonists left in December 1607 for England because of dwindling supplies. The rest stayed. After one year, only one life had been lost, but the colonists bickered about their leaders. One faction favored George Popham; the other faction favored Raleigh Gilbert as leader. Together they built the first English ship in the New World, and sailed back in it in 1609. The ship was named Virginia, weighing 30 tons. The buildings of the Popham colony were excavated between 1994 and 2005.

### **Land grants from the Plymouth Council to Gorges and Mason in 1622.**

In 1622 the Plymouth Council of New England, another group of English businessmen, granted a smaller patent to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and John Mason between the Merrimack River in Northern Massachusetts, and the Kennebec River in southern Maine (see map on page 22).



### **Note Saco and Biddeford on Saco River in York County, Maine.**

In 1622, the Plymouth Council of New England, another group of English businessmen, granted a smaller patent to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and John Mason between the Merrimack River in Northern Massachusetts, and the Kennebec River in southern Maine (see map above).



In 1629, Gorges and Mason split their grant at the Piscataqua River. Mason took the southern half which he called New Hampshire, and Gorges took the northern part which he called Maine (see map on previous page).

Gorges was a knighted army officer who felt North America should be settled, but never went there himself. He felt it should be like the English system of wealthy nobles controlling the lands worked by farmers. One of his agents, Capt. Christopher Levett, started a settlement he called York (Levett was born in York England). He left some men in Saco, Maine in 1631. But Levett died on his voyage back to England. Some say the men were never heard of again.

Exactly what happened next varies in different accounts. Initially an unofficial court sat in Saco. The court became official in 1636 with a deputy-governor and six commissioners. Sir Ferdinando's nephew, William Gorges, was the first official Governor from 1636 to 1638 in Saco. Saco had previously been explored by Samuel Champlain in 1605 when he found a palisaded Indian village which was abandoned in 1616.

In 1638, Sir Ferdinando Gorges was Governor, but he never went there - his cousin Thomas Gorges was deputy Governor in his name. Where these settlers came from is difficult to fathom out. Presumably settlers could have come from Massachusetts Bay Colony, from Plymouth Colony, from England, some of the above, or all of the above. But by one account the men left by Levett in 1631 were "never heard of again".

In the 1650s the Massachusetts Bay Colony absorbed York County into Massachusetts. The town of Saco was incorporated in 1653, the same year as the incorporation of York County, Maine (see map opposite). Settlers in present-day Maine and New Hampshire chose to be part of Massachusetts until in 1680 when New Hampshire became a separate province. Unfortunately, Saco burnt in 1690 and reincorporated in 1718 as Biddeford. When Massachusetts adopted its state government in 1780, it created the District of Maine to manage its eastern territories. When Maine achieved statehood in 1820 all of the counties of the District of Maine became counties of Maine.

The early colonization of the Americas was fraught with risk. Many died during the trip across the Atlantic. The risk of living in

*Continued on page 29*



### *Affordable Gold Continued*

tiny 7,370, and the uncirculated mintage was an even smaller 2,947 pieces. Yet their price tags today sit at about \$400 per coin, maybe a bit more. Admittedly, that is higher than the baseline we just established, but not much higher. Evidently, people either considered the commems market saturated at this point, or folks just didn't think too much of the theme or the artwork. Whatever the case, the coin is many times less common than the Statue of Liberty or the Constitution \$5 gold pieces, and only costs something like \$50 more.

The United States Mint is still in the commemorative coin business, and shows no signs of getting out of it any time soon. There has not been a \$5 gold half eagle produced with each and every commemorative theme back through all these issues, but there have been quite a few over the course of the whole program. Assembling a collection of these modern gold pieces shouldn't be all that difficult, although the prices will never be pocket change (we are talking gold here!). Yet we've seen that a person might reasonably expect to start with \$350 as an expected expense, then multiply it by the number of commems we wish to put together – knowing that some might be more expensive, and some might have designs we simply don't like. The best of luck to any of us who wish to go hunting, and see just how many good looking modern half eagles we can collect. 🦅

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NENA News 5

North America, with Indian attacks, disease, starvation, loss of supplies, etc. was ever present.

On the whole colonists in the south in Virginia had tougher problems than those in the north. Much of this was due to more disease in the south, but some of it was related to unfriendly Indian attacks. The risk of being abandoned by lack of supply ships from England also loomed large.

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# Junk Box Reporter

Welcome to the, "Junk Box Reporter" a column reserved for brief reports of unusual finds by members in those unusual places like old desk drawers, in walls of renovated rooms, at flea markets, coin machine rejects slots., dealer's junk boxes, etc.

Submit your brief write up about and scan (if possible) of the object and the place or how it was found, an estimated value if possible and other highlights about the find including your name or just initials if you wish to remain anonymous to: John Ferreri P.O. Box 33 Storrs, CT 06268.

"JBR" briefs do not qualify for dues reduction as do submitted articles. Some "JBR" briefs may be edited to conform with the purpose of the column. Tell us about your experience! We want to hear from you!

(Bob Hess replying to a question from David Howard in the previous issue).....

I am replying to David Howard's request for more info on the Pine Tree Shilling token from the August 2010 ANA Convention in Boston. Ted Swol made the dies and various planchets to strike were available. Cost was about \$5.00 each. Some folks brought in aluminum and silver for planchets. The tokens were made the old fashioned way by hand striking with a sledge hammer. The late George Bilodeau (a good friend of Ted's) brought or helped carry in a tree stump which was used as the base for the dies. Convention guests could then strike their own tokens. Bob Moffatt says that some folks deliberately struck their tokens "off center".

I remember meeting Bob Moffatt at the previous June coin show in Auburn and told him I was interested in being a volunteer at the Convention (Bob was the ANA Boston Volunteer Coordinator). This was my first ANA convention. It was there I met several folks who over time became good friends: Bob, George, Stanley Sobiech, John Ferreri and many others. I also remember Bob Fritsch setting up a machine nearby which made terrific elongated cents. I even donated a roll of 1943 steel cents and several of us used these in the elongated coin machine. That week's experience was a whole lot of fun for a very new coin collector! Thank you for reminding me of some terrific memories through the discovery of your token.

Bob Hess

*Continued on next page*

**NennaNews 31**

**It Pays to Look Closely...**

Lot 25755 of the 2003 CAA/Heritage sale in St Louis was a small cardboard chit good for at two different establishments, listed under "Boston, MA-Frost & Armstrong, 50c. It did not interest me - until I saw on the illustration that the second establishment was for "S. F. Twichell, Framingham". At the bottom it read 186 , suggesting that the chit had been intended for use sometime in the 1860's, but never put to use.

I was born and raised in Framingham, my family having moved there in 1882 or so, and long interested in the town's history and my family involvement. The name "Twichell" was new to me, as was the term Refreshment Rooms, though this is easily surmised. But where might they have been?

I could not find my Bible, "Temple's History of Framingham" so turned to Fred Wallace, Town (now City) Historian at the Framingham History Center for help:

Simeon F. Twichell came to Framingham in 1854 to take over the management of the old Clark's Hotel in South Framingham across from the train station; he - as inn keeper - and his family lived there for about 20 years. It is highly likely that the REFRESHMENT ROOMS titled on the chit were operated in the hotel.

Twichell retired to become a Deputy Sheriff, dying in 1879; the hotel is long gone. The coupon, once good for 50c, may be unique, and is not represented in the History Center collection - yet!

Arthur Fitts

**Bargain/Junk Boxes Are Not To Be Scorned**

NENA at the Manchester, NH Coin Show of Nov 9/10, 2018 had a box of assorted tokens, medals, awards etc. which were made of brass, zinc, copper, pot metal and the like. It was not a promising place to find anything interesting which is what my initial perusal indicated. Later, I came back and looked again and spotted an odd looking item in a small plastic bag. It looked like a piece of Chinese odd and curious money I had seen images of but it was too small. It is bronze, about 1.5 inches long x 3/4 inches wide and about 1/8 inch thick. The piece weighed in at 15.5 grams. The back is smooth and the front has really odd characters of ancient Chinese script. It almost looks like a little man with a head and split for the legs.

A fellow Worcester Coin Club member, and avid collector of odd and curious money, verified it as a piece of Ancient Chinese hoe money which sent me on a search for more information about this find. My

catalogs had little information but the Calgary Coin and Antique Gallery had an excellent summary of known information and even priced similar pieces. The piece of hoe money I had picked out was likely made from about 400-255BC during the warring states period somewhat south of the Yellow River possibly in the Shantung Peninsula.

Officially a shu weighed 0.65 grams and 24 shu equaled 1 liang or jin which a character on the coin appears to be. The predicted weight would be 15.6 grams, my piece weighed in at 15.5 grams. There was also an indication that many pieces had a shu weight of 0.5 grams with a jin or liang weight of 12 grams. The leads me to suspect my find is early in the issue of this type of money by having a nearly full weight. Inflation and mint seignorage trimmed the weight by about 25 %.



I would estimate the retail value of the piece to be around \$60-75 which makes it quite a junk box find and gave me a day of Happy Collecting.

F.A. Liberatore

**Junk Box Finds?** Who needs a junk box? I just go to the bank. Drives my wife crazy when I bug the tellers all the time for anything unusual. Sometimes I hit and sometimes I miss. One teller had \$400 in Kennedy half dollars. Said, "How many do you want?" (I thought she knew me better than that.) I said \$400. I thought she was going to jump the counter and kiss me. She was so glad to get rid of them. I spent the night looking at each one for silver, a double die, or some other error and I found exactly two 40% halves. Oh well. Back to the drawing board. But now the teller knows she has a sucker willing to take those heavy annoying half dollars off her hands. She called me at the house one day to tell me she just had \$140 in halves dropped off. I bought them and two of the rolls were Benjamin halves! Now we are talking.

Another bank teller did not have any halves but mentioned she had a 'big dollar coin'. Never can tell. Might be a 1972 Variety 2 Eisenhower. Nope. She handed me a 1923 Peace dollar. I asked how much she wanted for it. The young teller had one of those annoyed looks on her face and explained to me, "It says *a dollar*." I gave her a dollar. When I left the bank, I was reminded of the IKEA commercial where the lady yells, "Start the car, Start the car".

Lastly, my wife dragged me to a retail shop a few weeks ago. Lucky for me, there was a bank in the small shopping mall. I asked for

*Continued on next page*

half dollars and the teller had \$60 but nicely explained, “They aren’t worth anything”. A coin collector died and “the family researched it”. I picked up 6 original mint wrapped rolls of halves for face value. 2012 P&D, 2013 P&D, and 2018 P&D. Might as well push my luck. Did they turn in any Eisenhower dollars? “Why yes they did”! \$25.00 worth. By that time, I had to go out to the car and asked the Mrs. for some extra cash. It was worth it. This time, one of the Ikes was a 1972 Variety 2.

Remind me to tell you later about the 2 Morgan dollars I got at the bank.

Dana Zais

**Thank You David** for submitting your finds to NENA News and the “Junk Box Reporter”. Regarding your request for information on the token as a member of the Boston Numismatic Society and a member on the Boston 2010 committee I have fond memories of the 2010 ANA World’s Fair of Money. The dies for the token were engraved by Ted Swol. Ted



is a member of the Mansfield Numismatic Society who has also engraved the dies for their 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 M.N.S Medals. The medal was issued by the Boston Numismatic Society to commemorate their 150th, anniversary in conjunction with the 2010

World’s Fair of Money. Some medals were pre struck prior to the show but many were struck during the show. Prior to the show George Bilodeau picked up the dies, anvil, hammer and a tree stump from Ted and drove to my house where we transferred the items into my car along with other supplies for the show. We then drove to the convention hall and set up in the hall next to the bourse where Richard Lavimodiere struck the tokens.

Yours

William Harkins

Photo courtesy of Richard Hand Jr.:

Left to right William Harkins, unidentified ANA volunteer, George A. Bilodeau and Richard Lavimodiere.

Photo showing the 2010 lead die trial of the token.



# Twenty Franc Sized Gold Coins of Nations Outside the Latin Monetary Union To 1914

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By: J.R. Greene

*Several nations that were not part of the Latin Monetary Union (LMU - 1870 - 1914 - see my articles in the March and September 2019 issues of NENA News) issued 20 Franc - sized gold coins on that standard (.1867 ounce Average Gold Weight) during the same era. This article will list and describe these coins.*

*Not all coins are pictured. Those that are, are with the courtesy of Heritage Auctions.*

**T**he Empire of Austria - Hungary issued some gold coins in the late 1800's that were on the LMU standard, along with many others that were not. Austria issued a 20 Franc / 8 Forint coin from 1870 - 91, depicting Emperor Franz Joseph on the obverse, with the royal coat of arms on the reverse. Such coins dated 1892 are restrikes.



Hungary issued three types of this denomination between 1870 -92, again with the emperor on the obverse. There are two head sizes, and three versions of the coat of arms on the reverses.

Bulgaria issued two different 20 Leva coins depicting Prince, later King Ferdinand I on the obverse. The 1894 coin as prince has a larger royal coat of arms on the reverse, while the 1912 version as King has a smaller reverse design.



The Danish West Indies issued a 4 Daler 20 Franc coin in 1904 - 05. This featured a bust of Danish King Christian IX on the obverse, and a seated female figure on the reverse. Curiously, the mother country did not issue any gold coins on this standard.



*Continued on next page*  
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Finland had two 20 Markkaa gold coins issued while it was a grand duchy of Russia in eleven years from 1878 - 1913. The first year featured a smaller imperial eagle on the reverse than was used in the last ten years it was issued. The obverse featured a plain design with inscriptions in Finnish.

Greece issued two 20 Drachmai gold coins during the reign of King George I in the late 1800's. The first, in 1876, featured a young head of the king, the second, in 1884 (which had a much higher mintage) features an older head. Both have a royal coat of arms on the reverse.



Monaco issued a single 20 Franc coin in 1878 - 79, featuring a portrait of Prince Charles III. The royal coat of arms was on the reverse.

Romania issued ten different 20 Lei coins between 1868 and 1944 on the LMU standard. Only the first four will be discussed in this article, as they were issued before 1914.

A very rare gold 20 Lei (with a mintage of 200 pieces) from 1868 shows a mustached Carol I as a prince, with flowers surrounding the denomination on the reverse. A second, less scarce 1870 coin shows Carol I with a beard, and a reverse with larger lettering within a wreath.



In 1883 and 1890, Romania issued another type of 20 Lei with a slightly different head of the now King Carol I, and featuring a royal shield on the reverse. In 1906, a coin was issued to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Carol I's reign, showing an old head on one side, and a young head on the other.

Russia issued five ruble gold coins with the head of Tsar Alexander III on the LMU standard between 1886 and 1894. These featured the Romanov eagle on the reverse. In 1895 and 1896, extremely rare pattern five rubles with the head of Nicholas II were produced.



Tsar Nicholas II appeared on a seven and a half ruble gold coin on the LMU standard issued after a monetary reform in 1897. This featured Nicholas' portrait on the obverse, with a more elaborate Romanov eagle in the reverse.

*Continued on next page*



Serbia issued two 20 Dinara gold coins in 1879 and 1882. Both depicted Milan Obrenovich IV; the first one as prince, the second one as king, reflected in the titles on the obverse. The reverse showed a crown over a wreath.

Spain issued four varieties of 20 peseta gold coins between 1889 and 1904, all depicting King Alfonso XIII on the obverse, and the royal coat of arms on the reverse. These have stars on either side of the date; restrikes have later dates (such as “61” or “62”) within the stars.

The design from 1889 - 90 features the “baby head” of the king. An 1890 design features a teenaged head of the king, with longer hair. The 1899 version shows a more mature head of the king with short hair, while a scarce 1904 version shows an adult bust.

Tunisia issued two versions of a 20 Franc gold coin under the LMU standard while a French protectorate. From 1891 - 1902, coins were issued with the name “Ali” in the inscription, within two grains. The reverse had the inscription “Tunisie / 30 Francs / and the date within a floral wreath.

Coins struck from 1903 - 06 had an inscription for Mohammed Al Hadi in the inscription, and from 1907 - 14 for Mohammed Al Nasir. Coins struck from 1905 through 1928 were only issued in double - digit quantities.

Venezuela struck 20 Bolivares gold coins on the LMU standard various years between 1879 and 1912. These featured a portrait of national hero Simon Bolivar on the obverse, with the national coat of arms on the reverse.

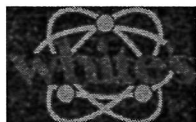
The next article in this series will discuss gold coin issues struck by nations on the LMU standard after it ended in 1914, due to World War I. 📌

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# Seeking Information to include with the Massachusetts Merchant Scrip note compilation.



Nena is asking its members for help in expanding this new reference listing by member Kevin Lafond. Presently, there is no public listing available. This would be the first!

The "in progress" listing may be viewed on the Nena website, [Nenacoin.org](http://Nenacoin.org). Once at the site, press the Nena News button to access the proper area. Please contact Kevin Lafond before submitting at: [kgla-fond@comcast.net](mailto:kgla-fond@comcast.net) or at P.O.B. 637 Portsmouth, NH 03802.

## **NENA ANNOUNCES 2020 MEDAL**

NENA's 2020 Convention Medal was designed by Donat Charron. The medal celebrates the 400th, Anniversary of the Mayflower and the landing of the Pilgrims in New England.

These one and a half inch medals are produced in two finishes, antique bronze and antique silver color. The set of two is available for \$25.00 plus \$4.00 for postage and handling. Address orders to NENA; PO Box 2061, Woburn, MA 01888. Email queries may be addressed to [williamharkins@comcast.net](mailto:williamharkins@comcast.net).

Medals from previous years are also available – email your requests to the above address for a complete listing.

The 76th, NENA Convention will be held on October 3rd, in conjunction with the NH Coin and Currency Expo, October 2-3 at the Manchester Downtown Hotel/Double Tree by Hilton, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, N.H. Please Note due to the covid 19 pandemic our activities will be limited to our club table. See the website <http://www.nhcoinexpo.com/> for schedule, details, and hotel reservations. 📄

# Rare Portraits of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II

By: Benjamin D. R. Hellings<sup>1</sup>

**D**espite having one of the longest reigns of the Ptolemaic kingdom, portraits of Ptolemy VIII are exceedingly rare. Only a handful of sculpture reliefs (3 in total) and coins with his portrait (6 in total) exist today. The Yale University Art Gallery is the only place in the world where one can view a portrait coin and sculpture together of this once ruler of Egypt. The pairing of these two works of art offers an extraordinary case where ancient art and numismatics can work hand-in-hand to help identify portraits and teach the development of ancient art.

In October 2017, the Yale University Art Gallery acquired a rare sculpture portrait of Ptolemy VIII (Fig. 1). Like many Ptolemaic kings, Ptolemy VIII was portrayed in both Greek and Egyptian style. The sculpture portrait at Yale is a typical Greek image in the typical Greek medium of marble, and comparable to the portraits of the other successors to the kingdoms within the former empire of Alexander the Great. Coins issued by Alexanders' successors, including the Ptolemies, mimicked those of Alexander the Great, and therefore the combination of the two is all the more important.

*Figure 1 - Portrait head of Ptolemy VIII. mid-late 2nd century B.C. Marble. 9 1/2 × 7 × 6 in. (24.1 × 17.8 × 15.2 cm). Ruth Elizabeth White Fund, 2018.5.1.*



The sculpture's identification has long been subject to debate but is now most frequently recognized as that of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (ruled 170-163 [first reign, co-ruler with Ptolemy VI] and 145-116 B.C. [second reign, sole ruler]). His was one of the longest reigns of the Ptolemaic kingdom, and his title "Euergetes" (Benefactor) was a title of honor in ancient Greece. Ptolemy VIII

<sup>1</sup>Jackson-Tomasko Associate Curator of Numismatics,  
Yale University Art Gallery.

*Continued on next page*

had adopted the title in honor of his distinguished forbear, Ptolemy III. Known for his lavish and indulgent lifestyle, Ptolemy VIII was nicknamed “Physkon” (“Pot Belly”) and it was said that his girth was so great it could not be measured. He had two wives simultaneously, one (Kleopatra II) was also his sister and the widow of his predecessor, the other (Kleopatra III) was his niece and the daughter of Kleopatra II.

In January 2019, the Yale University Art Gallery, by chance, encountered a rare coin of Ptolemy VIII at CNG’s Triton auction. Coins displaying the portrait of Ptolemy VIII are exceedingly rare. Most Ptolemaic coins show the portrait of the Macedonian Ptolemy I, the founder of the dynasty, and a successor of Alexander the Great. Thus far, only six coins with a portrait Ptolemy VIII have been identified. Four didrachms, three of which are part of institutional collections (Berlin, Athens, and the American Numismatic Society in New York). The fourth one was formerly in the Victor A. Adda Collection of Ancient Coins and was sold at Christie’s London 1986, lot 965, and again at Gerhard Hirsch, Auction 245, 22 September 2011, Lot 4146 (sold for 1,300 euros). Its current location is unknown to me, although this is the least well-preserved of all the Ptolemy VIII coins, so misidentification is possible. Two tetradrachms complete the known census of portrait coins. The first is in Paris and the second is now at Yale, after successfully bidding at auction in January 2019 (Fig. 2). The Yale specimen is by far the best-preserved obverse/portrait side of all the known coins depicting Ptolemy VIII, although the reverse has a minor crack. Thus, there is only one remaining portrait coin available for purchase, should anyone wish to build a collection of Hellenistic ruler portrait coins.



*Figure 2 - Tetradrachm of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II. 139–138 B.C. Silver. 12.87 g, 12:00, 28 mm. Ruth Elizabeth White Fund, 2019.12.1.*

The coin clearly identifies the marble sculpture as Ptolemy VIII. His portraits show features typical of many Ptolemies: full fleshy face, large eyes, flaring nostrils, and curvaceous lips, all of which are individualized for each king by varying the hairstyle and emphasizing facial features such as this portrait’s heavy brows

*Continued on next page*



and protruding lower lip. The prominence of these details emphasizes the individual ruler in such likenesses in later Hellenistic art and into the Roman period. That this increased naturalism appears equally in coins and sculptural portraits reveals the growth of portraiture as an art form in the ancient Greek and Roman world. Nothing could show this better than to have a superb portrait of the same ruler in both media.

Ptolemaic and other Hellenistic art is a growing field of scholarship at Yale and in the ancient Mediterranean studies at large, bringing together Greek and Roman art, Classics, ancient history, and ancient numismatics. Together with the recently acquired portrait, the coin helps solidify numismatics as a serious field of inquiry within the broader discipline of ancient art, thereby helping enhance the Gallery's teaching and research opportunities in Greek art and numismatics.

Both these spectacular pieces of work are on view, permanently, in the Yale University Art Gallery (free admission!), in the ancient art wing. It is a world première and is unlikely ever to be repeated for Ptolemy VIII. 🏛️

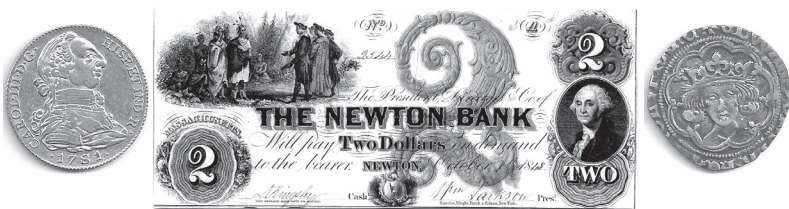
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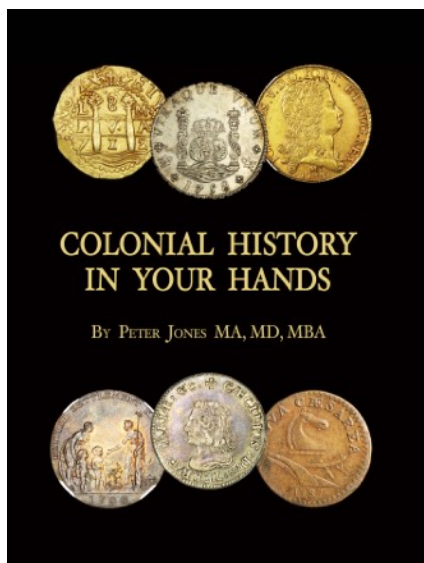
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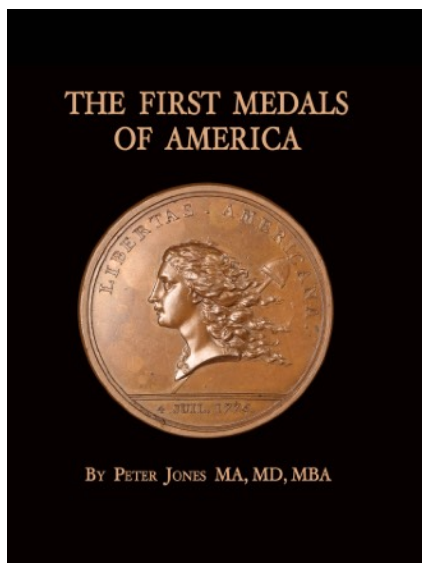
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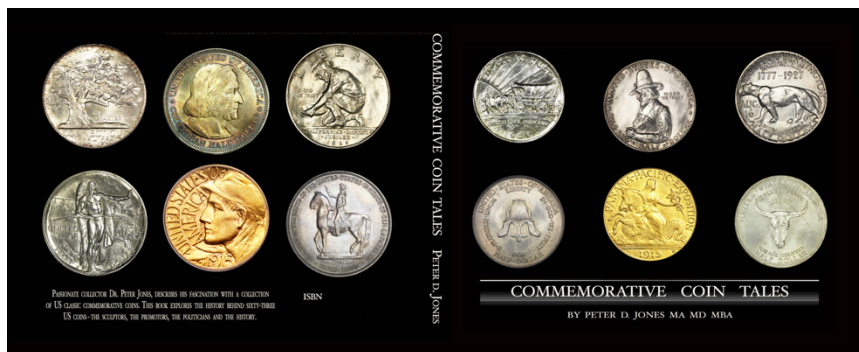
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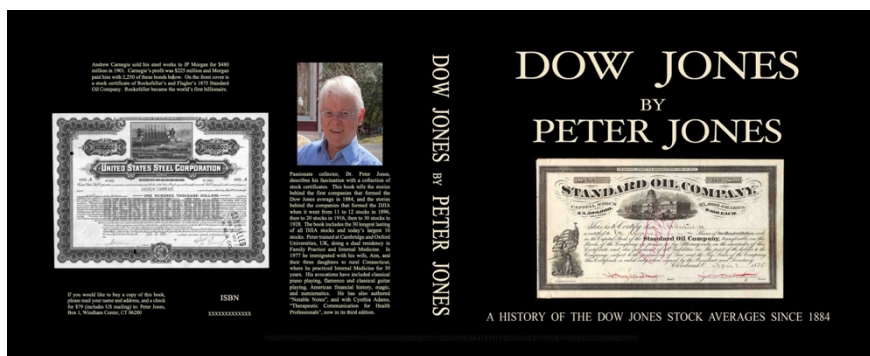
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